



Players at the Marriott Stellaris Casino can now get into the “Spirit of Aruba!”  
*The mega resort launches a series of commemorative chips.*

In a proud partnership between the Aruba Tourism Authority and the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino a new series of gaming chips has been issued that pay homage to the island that is home to one of the most successful resorts in the Marriott chain. These beautiful, colorful gaming chips feature subjects that highlight a number of the cultural and natural assets of Aruba, and with the first two, guests will be treated to a beautiful picture of the Natural Bridge and local girl Esther Kock, in garb that displays the essence of Carnival. Not only will they provide a more colorful experience at the tables, but will also provide a unique souvenir for collectors, a reminder of their time on our island paradise.

The ATA is thrilled with the idea of casino chips depicting memorable aspects of Aruba’s flora and fauna, history, and culture. The first two chips were issued during a special launching on Wednesday evening in the lounge of the Stellaris Casino, attended by Marriott General Manager Rick Zeolla, Brian Stedeford, Casino Manager, Anant Joshi, Director of Marketing, and Gina Lopes of the ATA.

Varying historic subjects such as the Willam III Tower and a cuncucu house, or local fauna including the iguana and Shoco, Aruba’s burrowing owl, will adorn future issues. Aruba’s famous Fofoti tree, which was vandalized this year, has been immortalized on one of the chips and each will be launched later in 2006. Every issue is part of a limited edition, with only 1500 manufactured.

The “Spirit of Aruba” chips were a joint brainstorm by Marriott manager Rick Zeolla, and many of the casino staff, as revealed by Gina Heyliger, Casino Marketing Supervisor. These beautiful issues are available for a limited only, and cost a mere \$5, their worth at the gaming tables. This is only one of a number of projects sponsored by the Marriott that exposes their guests to the culture and natural beauty of the island. This was of particular interest to a special guest at the evening event, DJ Karen Blake of Radio station WODS, Boston, better known as the Oldies 103.3 on the dial and host of the #1 adult music radio show in the city. Karen had just arrived on the island for three days, and will be found spending her late afternoons broadcasting direct to Boston from the Marriott about her Aruban experiences. The News offers a big welcome to Karen and the beautiful new commemorative chips that will forever remind collector of what is hoped was a winning stay in Aruba!